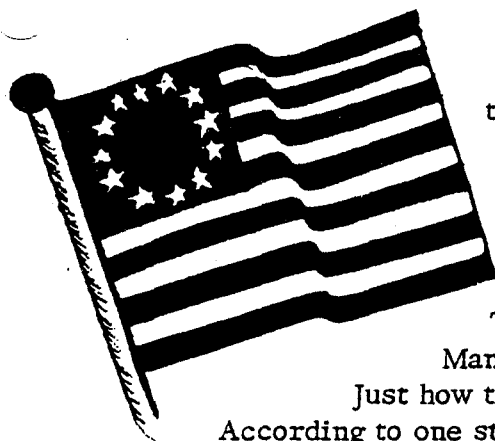


## COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



The United States' flag has not always looked like it does today.

At the beginning of the American Revolutionary War the colonists needed a flag. The American Navy used a flag which was white with a green pine tree on it and the words "An Appeal to Heaven." Other wartime American ships carried a striped red and white flag with a rattlesnake on it and the words, "Don't Tread On Me."

Many of the early flags were copies of the British flag.

Just how the American flag was made or who designed it is questionable.

According to one story, General Washington and two other men took a drawing to Betsy Ross in Philadelphia and asked her to make the flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with 13 white stars.

Congress adopted that flag design on June 14, 1777. However, there was no rule about how to place the stripes or the stars. Often all flags did not look alike.

When the war ended, more states were added to the United States and Congress kept changing the number of stripes to show the additions.

On April 4, 1818, Congress, by law, decided that there would be 13 stripes, in remembrance of the 13 colonies, and for each added state a star would be added.

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1. This selection is about:
  - (a) the flag of the United States
  - (b) flags of the world
  - (c) the Revolutionary War
  - (d) General Washington
2. The colonists needed a flag:
  - (a) for the American Navy
  - (b) at the beginning of the Revolutionary War
  - (c) like the British flag
  - (d) with stars and stripes
3. Some American warships flew a flag:
  - (a) that had 13 stripes and 10 stars
  - (b) with a rattlesnake pictured on it
  - (c) with a picture of Betsy Ross on it
  - (d) with 13 blue stars on it
4. Congress adopted the flag design:
  - (a) on July 4, 1776
  - (b) on April 4, 1818
  - (c) on June 14, 1777
  - (d) on June 4, 1704
5. Put the following statements in the order they appeared in the story:
  - (a) Navy used a white and green flag
  - (b) 13 stripes and a star for each state
  - (c) American Revolution began
  - (d) flag design adopted, 1777
6. In the story the word adopted means:
  - (a) painted
  - (b) designed
  - (c) accepted
  - (d) drew
7. The story implies that:
  - (a) the original flag designed is the one we use today
  - (b) many flags were designed before one was chosen
  - (c) our flag is a copy of the British flag
  - (d) General Washington designed the flag
8. The colonists needed a flag:
  - (a) to hang on a flagpole
  - (b) because the British flag was no longer suitable
  - (c) to show which colony they came from
  - (d) to give Betsy Ross something to do